

OHIO EI HEARING AND VISION CHECKLISTS

GUIDANCE RESOURCE

Form Overview

Title of Forms: Ohio EI Vision Checklist; Ohio EI Hearing Checklist

The purpose of these checklists is to assist qualified evaluators and assessors with gathering information about the vision and hearing status of a child.

The Federal IDEA Part C Regulations mandate that the evaluation and/or assessment (E/A) include vision and hearing status. Additionally, the E/A team must review any available medical history and records for each child they evaluate and/or assess. **The qualified personnel conducting the evaluation and/or child assessment must gather applicable information listed on the checklists and are responsible for completing them.**

Checklists must be completed for every child during their initial eligibility and/or child assessment process. Reassessments are conducted annually thereafter using the checklists during the annual assessment of the child. The results of the checklists must be included within both the evaluation summary on EI-03 (if an evaluation was completed) and the child assessment summary of the IFSP. The checklists are intended to fulfill the requirements for evaluation and assessment of physical development, including vision and hearing, and are maintained in the child's record. Upon completion of evaluation/assessment of hearing and vision, the team will determine whether the components indicate the need for consultation with their team's designated vision or hearing service providers.

Note: Not all checklists are required to be shared with the hearing or vision provider. Please refer to the guidelines below for the EI team's role in analyzing the hearing and vision checklists.

Step 1: EI Service Coordinator (or other intake personnel)

- Collects information from the parent(s) regarding hearing and/or vision concerns, visits to medical professionals, including audiologists, ophthalmologists, and optometrists, and the results of those medical visits and shares with the EI team.
- If aware that the child has been diagnosed with any of the applicable syndromes/conditions, they will inform the EI team. If available, the EI Service Coordinator (EISC) should provide all medical history/records.

Step 2: Core EI Team

- Uses information gathered by the EISC to involve the hearing and/or vision providers when possible as evaluators/assessors, especially:
 - If the child has a confirmed or suspected hearing and/or vision diagnosis/syndrome.
 - If the parent has concerns for hearing and/or vision.

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Step 3: Evaluation/Assessment Team (which may include the hearing or vision provider)

- Conducts evaluation and/or assessment, including medical history and record review.
- Completes the checklists at the initial evaluation and/or child assessment. If a hearing or vision provider is selected to be part of the E/A team, they may be the one to complete the checklist at the initial evaluation and/or child assessment.
- Most, if not all, of the information needed to complete the checklists should be acquired during evaluation/assessment, so as much of the checklist as possible should be completed with information obtained from E/A and then any remaining questions should be asked. Any information not obtained through observation should be acquired through parent interview.
- The E/A team documents the dates the checklists were completed. They also include information about vision and hearing functioning in the summary on EI-03 (if applicable) and Section 3 of the IFSP.

Step 4: Determining Next Steps

- The E/A team analyzes all the information gathered on the hearing and vision checklists and determines if the child needs to be presented during a team meeting.
 - The E/A team uses the information gathered to determine if the checklist should be reviewed by an Ohio EI hearing/vision provider.
 - If so, the EISC sends medical documentation to vision/hearing provider prior to team meeting.
 - The child is added to team meeting agenda and the E/A team ensures hearing/vision provider can participate.
 - Hearing and vision providers may also be consulted via phone or email, if needed.
- The EI core team determines next steps, which could include:
 - Coaching.
 - Consultation with hearing and/or vision provider.
 - Follow up on any additional recommendations.

Additional Guidance

- The EISC is responsible for ensuring that the checklists are completed by qualified personnel and included as part of each child's evaluation/assessment documentation.
- Once the checklists have been completed as part of the child evaluation and/or child assessment, the requirement for hearing and vision checklists are complete. Your team can move on to an initial IFSP while continuing to explore next steps.

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- If there are concerns that require further medical evaluation, the EISC and/or E/A team must recommend that the family make an appointment with a medical hearing or vision professional (e.g., an audiologist, ENT, ophthalmologist, or optometrist) for further evaluation.
- Information gathered on the hearing and vision checklists is documented on the EI-03 (if applicable) and within section 3 of the IFSP and will not be documented anywhere in EIDS (Early Intervention Data System).
- If the last box is checked in the risk factors section for syndromes associated with hearing and/or vision loss, specify the name of the diagnosis in the optional notes box in the assessment analysis section.

Helpful Resources Related to Hearing and Vision Loss

- A Tool for Identifying Vision and Hearing Loss in Children with Multiple Disabilities: <https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/A-Tool-for-Identifying-Vision-and-Hearing-Loss-in-Children-with-Multiple-Disabilities-WVB23-and-WVSA.pdf>
- NIDCD Baby's Hearing and Communicative Development Checklist: <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/your-babys-hearing-and-communicative-development-checklist>
- ODH Vision Developmental Milestones: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/children-s-hearing-vision-program/resources/vision+developmental+milestones-short-version>
- Past Vision and Hearing Webinars: <https://ohioearlyintervention.org/trainings/191>
- Early Hearing Detection and Intervention: <https://www.ehdi-pals.org/default.aspx#gsc.tab=0>
- Risk Factors for Early Childhood Hearing Loss: Guidelines for Infants who Pass the Newborn Hearing Screen (page 19, table 1): <https://www.infanthearing.org/nhstc/docs/Year%202019%20JCIH%20Position%20Statement.pdf>

Related Rule References

- Ohio: [OAC 5123-10-02 \(H\)\(3\) & \(I\)\(3\)](#)
- Federal: [34 CFR Part 303.344](#)